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For Immediate Release

Off-Duty Excise Officer Performs CPR, Saves Man's Life

SULLIVAN, Ind. (Aug. 21) – An off-duty Indiana State Excise Police officer's quick response this morning helped save a man's life.

Captain Patrick Fulford was speaking with a 66-year-old Sullivan man outside of the Sullivan Newsstand, 6 S. Court Street, when the man suddenly collapsed face-first onto the ground. Captain Fulford immediately began performing CPR on the man.

After a few minutes, a Sullivan Fire Department ambulance arrived and took over. Prior to the arrival of the SFD ambulance, the man again had a pulse.

The man was transported to Terre Haute Regional Hospital by Sullivan Fire Department, where he remains in the Intensive Care Unit at this time.

Captain Fulford, who has 29 years as a police officer, oversees the two Indiana State Excise Police districts that cover all of southern Indiana. As South Area Captain, he supervises two lieutenants, two sergeants, one corporal and 16 officers.

"Captain Fulford's quick response after the man collapsed has given him another chance at life," Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. "Our prayers go out to him for a speedy and full recovery."

Captain Fulford was assisted by Sullivan County Emergency Management Agency Director Jim Pirtle.

As the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, the primary mission of the Indiana State Excise Police is to promote public safety by enforcing Indiana's Alcoholic Beverage Code. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related laws.